

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 12-26, 28-30 and 43 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 6 and 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide sequence, which encodes a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A coryneform bacterium transformed with an isolated cstA gene comprising a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The coryneform bacterium according to claim 9, wherein the cstA gene is over-expressed by increasing the copy number of the cstA gene or by operably linking a promoter to the cstA gene.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The shuttle vector Escherichia coli DH5alphamcr/pEC-K18mob2cstAexp deposited as DSM 13671.

Claims 12-26 (canceled)

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